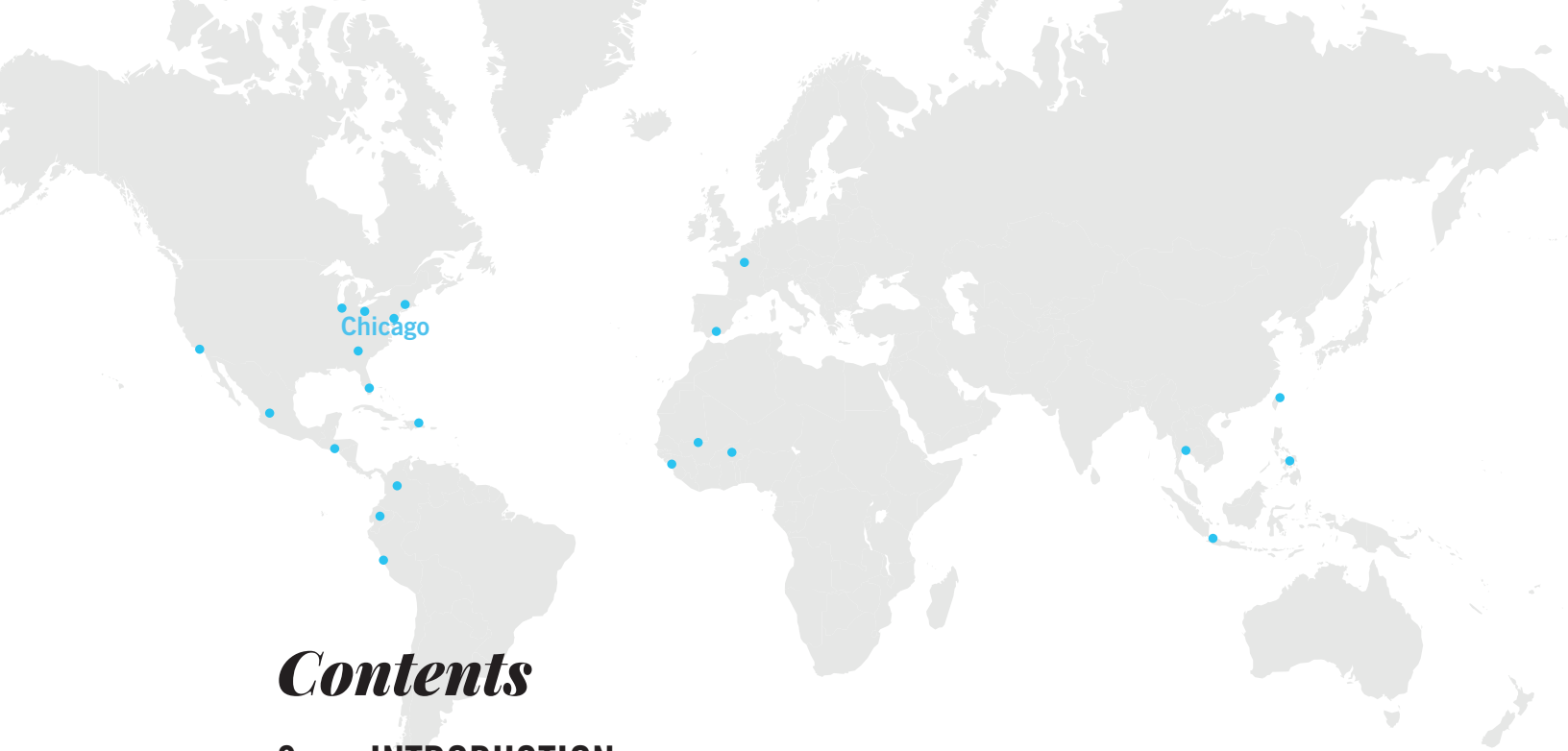




Chicago

ENVISION HANDBOOK





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Introduction

ABOUT THE SITE

Envision Chicago is a diverse, incarnational ministry strategically located in the inner city of Chicago. Within our community, 1 in 5 families live below the poverty line, and more than 80% of students in the public school system come from low-income households. There are more than 40 primary languages spoken in our community. Some of these languages represent people groups who are considered “unreached” by the gospel of Christ. The diversity of our community also presents us with the unique opportunity to share the gospel of Christ with people who were born in creative access countries.

Chicago as a whole has about 3 million people within its city limits, and it has an overall church attendance that is lower than the national average. We, as the church in the United States, must not neglect ministering to the people who are closest to us; especially if those people have never heard about the saving message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

MEET THE TEAM



Site Coordinators Scott & Natalie Manke started the Family Empowerment Center in 2003 as a missional church plant within the greater C&MA family. Scott and Natalie have four children who they have raised in the context of their community. They believe in the relational importance of life-on-life ministry and loving your neighbors based on proximity and not affinity. They have been hosting short-term teams for The C&MA for more than 10 years and have a passion to see the Church at large inspired towards mission locally and globally. They love investing in those that come to serve and see short-term trips, internships, and residencies as partnerships. They are practical in their approach to life and ministry and love to speak about their community, its needs, and the opportunities that exist in Chicago.



Site Associates Carlos & Sandi Perez met in 2006 and we were married in New Jersey in 2009. They have five children. Both Carlos and Sandi have felt a call to ministry, and began serving in the church community when they moved to Indianapolis in 2011. In 2012, Carlos took a full-time role at Hope Church. In the fall of 2014, they began to ask the Lord to show them what was next. He made it clear they needed to be in ministry full-time and opened their hearts to going somewhere new. The Lord led them to the Family Empowerment Center in Chicago to serve alongside Envision in the city. Their primary goals are focused on the multi-ethnic community represented within the church at the Family Empowerment Center.



General Information

TEAM COSTS

The cost is \$475 per individual of teams for 7 days. The expenses cover meals and lodging. Primary care health insurance is required for every individual that visits the site. Airfare/travel expenses are excluded.

INTERN COSTS

The cost is \$1200 per intern for each month. The expenses cover meals and lodging. Primary care health insurance is required for every individual that visits the site. Airfare/travel expenses are excluded.

HOUSING & FOOD

You will be housed in the building of our partner church called the Family Empowerment Centers. You can either bring your own air mattresses and sleeping bags, or you can rent them from us at \$15 per person for the week. In the mornings you will need to pick up your sleeping bags and mattresses in order to make room for the day's ministry.

Our group trips enjoy hot and cold breakfasts, cold cut sandwiches for lunch, and each evening, a meal from a different culture that is represented in our diverse community.

When you come as an intern, you will be living with a member from the community or with an on-the-ground ministry who we are partnering with. (ex: YWAM, Family Empowerment Centers, etc.) All of our interns who come to serve in the summer with Envision Chicago will enjoy meals with our summer teams. If you choose to come during the fall, winter, or spring months you will be eating with the Envision team and/or your host family.



AIRPORT & ARRIVAL INFORMATION

If you are flying into Chicago, you will have a choice of arriving at Midway Airport or O'Hare Airport. O'Hare is closer to our site, but both of them are easy to navigate and have access to the public transit throughout the city. Many of the discount airlines will only fly into O'Hare, so keep that in mind. Once you obtain your flight itinerary, please be sure to send it to the site coordinators so that they can arrange a pick-up or an escort on the CTA trains.

If you plan to drive into Chicago, please use this address to navigate you on your GPS: 1533 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60660. Please contact the site coordinators so they can greet you when you arrive and arrange parking for your vehicle for the duration of your time at Envision Chicago.

COMMUNICATIONS

There is Wifi access at the ministry center in Chicago, but we encourage teams to disconnect throughout the day and work through the team leaders to grant access to youth. Trip leaders can pass on sign-in information to team members at their discretion.

We love it when our teams are fully present, whether that's actively serving or during team time. For this reason, we have a limited cell phone use policy during your time at Envision Chicago. We understand using your phone camera to document your time here, but please refrain from spending time on social media and emails throughout the week.

Packing List

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Ministry clothes (no leggings or yoga pants please)
- Pajamas
- Rain gear (umbrella, jacket, poncho, etc.)
- Toiletries
- Medications or prescriptions
- Team first aid kit
- Shower towel
- Swimsuit for beach (optional)
- Beach towel (optional)
- Camera
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Spending money (\$20-50 will be plenty)
- Water bottle
- Bible, journal, pen

SUGGESTED DRESS CODE

Please bring comfortable clothing for work days and hangout times during the week. Please bear in mind that you are not just representing yourself, but your home church and the ministry of Envision Chicago and our partner organizations this week. You will be interacting with populations from other cultures, who often hold higher standards of modesty than U.S. norms. With that in mind, be sure to dress modestly, avoiding too-short or too form-fitting of clothes. If you are wearing something inappropriate, one of our staff members will ask you to change.





Ministry

We have a diverse, holistic ministry that incorporates three elements: ministry, service and training. The community is densely populated, home to many under-resourced families, and multi-lingual with a large Spanish speaking community. We offer training and orientation to prepare you for ministry here. Topics we cover include: Understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in mission; evangelism; training on homelessness in Chicago and the ministry of service and love. Our leaders pour into you through their life & ministry experience. We have practical implementation, including prayer walks, servant evangelism, and relational evangelism. Ministry opportunities are varied. We try to balance regular ministry at FEC with other local ministries we support.

After School Program during the school year:

This program runs M-F from 3-6pm. You'll have the opportunity to tutor, teach a Life Skills class or assist with our Academic Enhancement Course. Curriculum will be provided.

Day Camp:

This camp serves around 40-50 elementary-age children. Most come from under-privileged low-income families and/or single parent homes. The camp teaches basic life skills, math, reading, and one hour of VBS.

Muslim and Hindu contextualized ministry:

This can range from a simple exposure experience, to a larger ministry project partnered with the C&MA ministry center in Little India.

Soccer Camp & VBS:

Available in June. The Camp focuses on teaching drills, VBS and competitive games with elementary-aged inner-city kids to teach them about the Bible. You may need to bring curriculum. This option is great for families and young teams.

Homeless Ministry:

This can range from a simple exposure to a larger ministry project. You can help to make and distribute homeless care kits, encountering homelessness in a way that you have never experienced before. You will be challenged to journey with people who struggle with addictions, hunger, medical issues and spiritual lostness. You will be trained to walk with them using the same principles that Jesus did to meet practical and spiritual needs.

There may be other options while you are here. We are open to new ideas and would love to have a conversation. We try to make sure that the experience lines up with your desired outcomes and meets our regular ministry needs.

Ministry

TEAMS

A day in the life of a team here looks something like this (and we stress *something* because every week is different):

7:00 AM	Wake up
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Prep for ministry
9:00 AM	Ministry time
12:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Chores
2:30 PM	Service projects / ESL classes
5:30 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Team training
9:00 PM	Debrief

INTERNS

Subject to change depending on ministry assignment and months of service

5:30 AM	Wake up
6:30 AM	Breakfast prep for groups
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Prep for ministry
9:00 AM	Ministry time
12:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Lead groups in doing chores
2:30 PM	Time off (prepare for next day in ministry)
5:30 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Team training (mandatory for first week of service)
9:00 PM	Downtime



Cultural Sensitivity

Chicago is a culturally rich metropolitan city. Within the community surrounding our site, there are between 40 and 60 languages spoken. The majority of the families we minister to speak English as a second language and are 1st or 2nd generation immigrants to the United States. When we think about cultural sensitivity in Chicago, we have to keep in mind the diverse background that our community has.

Even though you are still in the States, this will be a cross cultural experience. The people of Chicago may look, speak and behave differently but always be remember that they are every bit as capable and valued as your team members. We always recommend coming in with the posture of a *listener* and a *learner*. Before making assumptions, see what you can discover by observing the interactions happening around you. Take notes from our staff and their posture with the communities we serve. Avoid language that tends towards an “us-them” mentality. Your interactions have long-term ramifications for the relationships we are building here on the ground, so be thoughtful with them!

We have some gang activity in parts of the city, so bandanas should not be worn during your time in Chicago. Please avoid wearing red or blue clothing in the city, and making any references about prominent gangs in your conversations.



Contact Info



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